

Nevada's Fifth-Grade Classrooms Can Sign Up Now For The 2002 Arbor Day National Poster Contest

The Nevada Division of Forestry and the National Arbor Day Foundation are inviting all fifth-grade classrooms and homeschoolers in Nevada to showcase their artistic talents by creating posters reflecting the theme "Trees Are Terrific . . . Inside and Out!" The annual contest, sponsored by Toyota, educates children about the importance of planting and caring for trees.

"Trees are vital to us all, and we need to share their history and grandeur with future generations," said John Rosenow, president of the National Arbor Day Foundation. "Through this contest, students have the opportunity to learn about the environmental benefits of trees and develop an appreciation of trees and what they provide us."

Teachers and homeschoolers in Nevada can sign up by contacting Susan Stead, contest coordinator for the state and Urban Forester with the Nevada Division of Forestry. Requests can be faxed to (775) 687-4244, or mailed to her at 1201 Johnson Street, Suite D, Carson City, NV 89706. Teachers will receive free ecosystem curriculum materials including in-depth lesson plans, hands-on activities, and contest information.

Nevada's state winner and three regional winners will receive savings bonds and t-shirts. Teachers of the winners will receive educational materials and gift certificates for educational supplies. Nevada's poster winner will be a finalist in the national competition.

The national winner will be announced on April 26, Arbor Day. The national winner, two parents, and the teacher of the winning students will receive an expense-paid trip to Nebraska City, Nebraska, birthplace of Arbor Day, where they will stay at Lied Conference Center during National Awards Weekend, April 26-28. In addition, the national winner also will receive a \$1,000 savings bond and lifetime membership in The National Arbor Day Foundation. The winning teacher will receive \$200 for classroom materials.

The National Arbor Day Foundation is a non-profit education organization dedicated to tree planting and environmental stewardship. On-line learning opportunities and other education materials, including lesson plans that correlate with National Science Standards, can be found online at www.arborday.org.